



MARYLAND STATE ARTS COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes – March 16, 2018

The Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) held its meeting at the St. Mary's County Town Hall in Leonardtown, MD on March 16, 2018. Chair Shelley Morhaim called the meeting to order.

Present: Carole Alexander, Lily Bengfort, Barbara Bershon, Aileen Carlucci, Zoe Charlton, Anthony Cornwell, Carla Du Pree, Joan Lyon, Julie Madden, Shelley Morhaim, Jack Rasmussen, Gary Vikan, MSAC staff

Absent: Senator Richard Madaleno, B.G. Muhn, Robinson Rowe, Del. Alonzo Washington, Anne West

Guests: Daniel W. Burris, Mayor, Nicholas Cohen, Maryland Citizens for the Arts, Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

Chair's Remarks

Shelley Morhaim reported the following:

- ✚ We are so glad to be here in St. Mary's County, thank you all for joining us today
 - Mayor, Dan Burris and Town Administrator, Laschelle McKay welcomed everyone
- ✚ Shelley recently attended performances at both the Annapolis and Chesapeake Shakespeare Companies, the BSO and Annapolis Symphony
- ✚ Shelley also congratulated Ken Skrzysz on his recent show and performance
- ✚ Special thanks to Carla for providing testimony before the House (budget committee) in Annapolis
- ✚ Things look good for us, as far as the budget goes
- ✚ Thank you for those who came out to Arts Day
- ✚ Council kisses were presented to Councilors for their outreach activities
 - Carole Alexander, Carla Du Pree, Julie Madden, Jack Rasmussen, Barbara Bershon, Aileen Carlucci, received acknowledgement
 - When attending events, please remember to let people know that you are with the Arts Council
 - It really means a lot to people to see us out in the community
 - Always be mindful that we have a commitment to serve as Ambassadors for the State
- ✚ Shelley reminded the Councilors to attend their assigned panels, and spoke to the importance of the overall process
- ✚ We also encourage your attendance at the upcoming community forums, town halls, etc.
- ✚ This is a really busy time for us, and we appreciate everyone's hard work

Financial Report

The financial report was approved as presented.

Diversity Outreach Update

Carla Du Pree reported the following:

- ✚ For the first time ever, AFTA hosted a session on diversity and inclusion at Arts Advocacy Day

- The session was filled, with standing room only
- This is a national conversation, and the subject matter can get very complicated
- We shared articles, data, outreach materials, etc.
- Everyone offered such amazing input
- ✚ Carla expressed the desire to make our diversity committee more progressive
 - We need to improve and start taking visible action
 - We should look into partnerships, creating subcommittees, having broader representation, etc.
 - Carla suggested the possibility of hiring a staff person to oversee the efforts, as the committee is limited by time constraints and availability
 - There is now a sense of urgency, and a need to start making some real moves
 - In doing the strategic plan, we really need to dive more into this work
 - Carla also recommended moving forward with providing small grants, offering workshops, etc. , as a display of our commitment to the community
 - As long as these conversations just “sit” within the committee, the work will never get done
 - It is time to branch out and move forward
 - Recommendations for diversity and inclusion through philanthropy were made, and it was suggested that we reach out to the following:
 - ✓ The Association of Jewish Charities
 - ✓ The Deutsch Foundation
 - ✓ In addition, Ken has already met w/T. Rowe Price and will soon be meeting with the Baker Foundation
 - Carla and Ken both agreed that these issues, along with next steps, should be discussed at an Executive Committee meeting
 - Further discussion can take place at the Annual meeting

MD Traditions/Folk & Traditional Arts Update

Chad Buterbaugh reported the following:

- ✚ The National Folk Festival is well into the planning stages
 - Chad is co-Chair of the planning committee alongside of Lora Bottinelli
 - This year’s festival will be September 7-9, in Salisbury
 - We are very excited to host a weekend long event
 - Thanks to Carole Alexander for her assistance with the marketplace
 - The National Folk Festival is the oldest multicultural festival of traditional arts in the nation
 - A proposal to provide funding for the National Folk festival was presented
 - The Council approved the proposal in the amount of \$125,000
- ✚ We are looking forward to hosting the NASAA Assembly in Baltimore this year
 - Discussions have begun in preparation for the Folk & Traditional Arts pre-conference
- ✚ Thank you for supporting MD Traditions

Performing Arts & Touring Update

Steve Drapalski reported the following:

- ✚ Steve provided an update on the Maryland Touring grant program
 - The application is now open in the online portal
 - Applications are due April 27th
 - Grant recommendations will be made at the June Council meeting
 - Grant award letters will go out in July

GFO Update

Ken Skrzysz, on behalf of Pamela Dunne reported the following:

- ✚ Ken provided an update for the GFO program
 - Panel meetings begin next week
 - ✓ Councilors are to serve as observers at GFO panels
 - ✓ Panelists are completing site assignments for our on-year applicants
 - ✓ Program Directors are always available to provide technical assistance
- ✚ Program Directors are working to assess budgets and to determine the FY2019 Cap
 - The Cap for FY2018 was 7.5%
 - An explanation of the FY2019 Cap will be provided at the Grants Committee meeting and at the Annual meeting in June

Public Art Update

Liesel Fenner reported the following:

- ✚ Liesel provided an update for the Public Art program
- ✚ We are currently working on the UMBC Community Forum Interdisciplinary Sciences Building (ILSB) Public Art Project
 - Liesel shared images of the proposed work (Cells)
 - The Selected artist is Volkan Alkanoglu
 - The planning committee was representative of faculty, staff and students
 - The process is as follows:
 - ✓ Determine location of artwork
 - ✓ Develop goals
 - ✓ Call to Artists
 - ✓ Artist selection
 - ✓ Artwork concept development
 - Next steps are as follows:
 - ✓ March-May: Final Concept Revisions
 - ✓ Summer-Fall: Artist commissions stamped engineering for UMBC approval
 - ✓ Preparation for fabrication
 - ✓ Winter 2019: Artwork constructed at fabrication shop
 - ✓ May 2019: Artwork Installation in ILSB
 - ✓ Fall 2019: ILSB Building Opens & Artwork Dedication

Arts in Education Update

Chris Stewart reported the following:

- ✚ Chris provided an overview of the Arts in Education program
- ✚ The Arts in Education program is designed to promote, strengthen, and enhance the arts and arts education in Maryland schools and other community settings
- ✚ In preparation for strategic planning, Chris is meeting with county arts councils for AiE listening and info sessions
 - The following counties have already been scheduled:
 - ✓ Anne Arundel
 - ✓ Carroll
 - ✓ Charles
 - ✓ Harford
 - ✓ Howard
 - ✓ Kent
 - ✓ Prince George's
- ✚ NASAA will be hosting a preconference/professional development for Arts in Education Managers at the November assembly
 - Topics of discussion will be:

- ✓ Highlighting youth leadership
- ✓ Cross-sector partnerships
- ✓ Culturally Situated Arts-Based Learning
- ✚ MSAC has been invited to co-host the National Guild for Community Arts Education Conference
 - The conference will take place November 14-17, in Baltimore
- ✚ Update: The Maryland Teaching Artist Association is now the Teaching Artists Mid-Atlantic
- ✚ Poetry Out Loud State Finals were held on March 10, in Baltimore
 - 1st place Cayla Turner, Anne Arundel County
 - 2nd place Amy Nguyen, Talbot County
 - 3rd place Aevin Mayman, Washington County
 - Thanks to all who attended

A&E/CAD/IAA Update

Steven Skeritt-Davis reported the following:

- ✚ Steven provided an update of the A&E, CAD and IAA programs
- ✚ New A&E designations are in process for Catonsville, Easton, Crisfield
 - Annapolis and Havre de Grace are up for redesignation
 - Applications will be reviewed in May
 - The A&E annual meeting will be June 4-5, in Harford County
- ✚ The CAD grant program provides funding to 24 County Arts Councils, ensuring statewide access to the arts
- ✚ CAD interim reports are in for FY2018
- ✚ Steven, Ken and Chad attended the March CAAM meeting in Chestertown
 - There was discussion of possibly doing some type of orientation or info session for CAC Executive Directors to provide more info on what everyone is doing and what is available
 - This type of training could benefit board presidents as well
 - The June CAAM meeting will be held in Baltimore
- ✚ The FY2019 CAD panel meeting will be held on May 8
 - Zoe Charlton will represent the board at that meeting
- ✚ Councilors, please be sure to sign-up for CAC events happening throughout the year
- ✚ MSAC hosted "Arts on the Fly" in February
 - The exhibit features IAA winners and will be up until June
 - Thanks to all who attended the opening
- ✚ The IAA Reception will be held on May 20, at AVAM
 - More details coming soon
 - Hope to see you there

Executive Director's Report/Strategic Planning Updates

Ken Skrzysz reported the following:

- ✚ We are gearing up for the 50th Anniversary event on April 20
 - The event will be held at the Walters Art Museum, in Baltimore
 - There will be both demonstrating and performing artists
 - Speakers will include:
 - ✓ Governor and Mrs. Hogan
 - ✓ Speaker Busch
 - ✓ Mike Gill
 - ✓ Ben Wu
 - ✓ Liz Fitzsimmons
 - ✓ Mayor Pugh
 - ✓ Nicholas Cohen

- ✓ Shelly Morhaim
- ✓ Jane Chu
- ✓ MSAC Program Directors
- ✓ Ken Skrzysz
- Tickets have already sold out
- Ken encouraged everyone to arrive as close to 6pm as possible
- The presentations will begin at 7pm
- We look forward to seeing you there
- ✚ Ken and Shelley have been visiting potential locations for our new facility
 - This has been an exciting process and very enjoyable to see what each space has to offer
 - Recent visits include:
 - ✓ The Lyric
 - There is a second floor space there, that would suit us
 - ✓ H&H
 - This is a fascinating space on Franklin and Eutaw
 - ✓ Epsteins
 - Being scheduled
 - ✓ Stewart's
 - 1st floor location on Howard Street, touring next week
- ✚ There is a lot happening in Maryland and MSAC has been asked to participate on several new projects, including:
 - ✓ Art Trails
 - Tourism would like us to develop these trails for out of state tourists
 - ✓ Baltimore City Pedestals
 - After Mayor Pugh's removal of the five confederate statues in Baltimore, we are trying to figure out what we could do with the remaining spaces (pedestals)
 - Liesel Fenner will be part of these conversations
 - Stay tuned, as we have just begun these talks
 - ✓ BSO Tour
 - The BSO has been invited to an overseas tour to several festivals
 - Details cannot be released yet, due to festival announcement guidelines
 - This will provide an opportunity for MSAC to connect with the arts council and tourism leadership in other cities, and to create some type of "arts tourism"
 - ✓ Carroll Park Amphitheatre
 - Michael Ross (CenterStage) and Krista Green (BOPA) approached Ken about the placement of an amphitheater in Carroll Park
 - This would be similar to the Merriweather Post Pavilion
 - We predict it would be a five year project
 - ✓ Natural Dyeing Culture Center Visit
 - This is an initiative of our First Lady, Yumi Hogan
 - The First Lady's hometown in Korea has the Natural Dyeing Culture Center
 - They create an ancient and very specific indigo dye
 - The Korean delegation will be coming to Maryland to see any possible connections
- ✚ Ken provided an update on the Arts in Maryland Conference
 - The conference will be held in May or June of 2019
 - Topics for professional develop may include:
 - ✓ Advocacy
 - ✓ Presenters
 - ✓ Arts in Education
 - ✓ Teaching Artists

- ✓ Arts and Entertainment Districts
 - ✓ County Arts Councils
- The main goal of this conference would be to encourage cross-program sharing
- The conference may be held yearly, or every other year
- This would be a two day celebration
- We are considering including IAA or the Maryland Traditions awards as part of the conference
- ✚ The NASAA 2018 assembly is coming to Baltimore in November
 - The estimated attendance is 350-500
 - Ken shared the preliminary visual “blueprint” for the conference
 - All Council members will be invited to the welcome reception
 - Programming is now being structured
 - The Council can send all potential artists and presenter information to Ken
 - Aileen made the suggestion of offering scholarships to artists, who may wish to attend
 - Carole made the suggestion of seeking Councilor involvement with the conference planning, activities, etc.
- ✚ An update was provided on the Strategic Planning RFP process
 - The Evaluation Team is in the process of selecting a Strategic Planning Consultant
 - ✓ After careful review of the submitted proposals; there are currently two firms under consideration
 - ✓ Interviews for the selected candidates will be held on April 13th
 - ✓ The awarded contract should start by mid-May
- ✚ Ken discussed procedural review in regards to our strategic planning
 - We need to have an overall view of what’s working and what’s not working, before involving MSAC staff in the process
 - A lot of the preliminary work can be done through webinars, to minimize travel, etc.
 - Some procedural revisions include the following:
 - ✓ Making all the grant processes “paperless”
 - ✓ Reviewing all existing guidelines, reporting requirements, etc.
 - ✓ Thank you letters to legislators
 - ✓ Changing the overall arts specific “language”
 - ✓ Attempting to define a relationship between MSAC and CAAM
 - ✓ Continuing and increasing involvement with MCA
 - ✓ Making Arts Education as a point of focus
 - ✓ Focusing on technical support and capacity building
 - ✓ Strengthening partnerships with organizations such as AEMS, MSDE, etc.
 - ✓ Internal evaluation of the Executive Director, provided by the board and staff
 - We want to make the best possible product, increasing the intertwining of the board and staff
 - Shelley encouraged everyone to attend the regional forums, focus groups, etc.
 - There is a lot of work to be done, so this needs to be a team effort
 - This is all very exciting work
- ✚ The Council reviewed all standing committee assignments
 - It was again emphasized to the Council, that they may request placement on any committee of interest
 - We aim to provide the most rewarding experience during your Council term, and what to put everyone in a position that best suits each individual, and best serves the Council
 - ✓ Lily Bengfort requested placement on the Strategic Planning Committee
 - The overall committee assignment process will need to be reviewed within the Executive Committee to discuss any possible revisions to the current process
- ✚ Ken also discussed the importance of building legislative relationships
 - Things to consider include:

- ✓ Strengthening Legislator and Board event attendance
- ✓ Training legislators to go through MSAC for special appropriations
- ✓ Poetry Out Loud performances during session
- ✓ Defining Council roles as it relates to our panel meetings
- ✚ Lauren Fowler has resigned as the Grants & Database Manager
 - We have had the opportunity to look more closely at the role and have decided to reclassify the job description
 - The new position will be classified as the Grants & Professional Development Director
 - The request has been sent to HR for review

A&E Technical Assistance Grants

The A&E grants were approved as presented.

MD Traditions Project Grants

The project grants were approved as presented.

MD Traditions Apprenticeship Awards

The apprenticeship awards were approved as presented.

Maryland Citizens for the Arts Update

Nicholas Cohen reported the following:

- ✚ It is a very busy time
- ✚ National Arts Advocacy Day was held in Washington DC, this past week
 - This is the annual event of AFTA, and it promotes advocacy on the national level
 - In the FY 2019 budget, The President has called again for the elimination of NEA funding
 - Luckily the NEA has great bipartisan support in the legislature
 - We have requested a \$5 million increase
 - Many thanks to Ken, Carla, and Julie for attending
 - Maryland had a strong delegation this year with over 40 members in attendance
- ✚ Thank you to everyone who attended Maryland Arts Day in February
 - The event was a great success, thank you for lending your voice to these efforts
 - We were fighting against a contingent \$1 million reduction in State funding
 - We were also faced with the proposed change in language that would affect the funding formula, reducing MSAC funding by \$13 million, for the three years out
- ✚ Thanks to Carla, Ken and Shelley for attending the hearings and providing testimony to the lawmakers
 - We are now waiting to hear back from the House and Senate
 - Right now things look good, and we should be at \$22.7 million
 - It also looks like the language change will be rejected
 - We are keeping a close eye on things, as anything can change quickly
- ✚ Nicholas distributed a “ I Need Art” postcard homework assignment to the group
- ✚ Please be sure to sign up to receive the latest news and updates
- ✚ Thanks for your continued support in arts advocacy

New Business

- ✚ The Annual Council meeting is June 1, 2018, at MSAC

Business Adjourned

Attachments:

- ✓ Financial Report
- ✓ A&E Technical Assistance Grants
- ✓ National Folk Festival Proposal
- ✓ MD Traditions Grants